Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium comprising a uniform interface for configuring and managing a plurality of different types of network devices, the uniform interface comprising:

a library containing generic commands that can be applied to said network devices; and

a plurality of plug-in modules that can register with said library, each of said modules operating to convert at least some of said generic commands into device-specific commands and transmit said device-specific commands to remote individual devices of a type that are associated with the module;

wherein at least one of said generic commands puts a device into its most privileged level through an established connection to the device.

2.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein said plug-in modules transmit each of said commands in accordance with a transmission protocol specific to the individual devices, respectively.

3.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 2 wherein one of said transmission protocols comprises Telnet.

4.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein another one of said generic commands establishes a connection to a network device through which configuration commands can be sent and information can be retrieved.

5.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein another one of said generic commands retrieves the current configuration of a network device by executing appropriate commands on the network device.

6.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein another one of said generic commands post-processes configuration information retrieved from another device to render said information suitable for storage and saves it to a local file system.

7.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein another one of said generic commands puts another device into a mode where it can accept configuration commands through another established connection at an enabled level.

8.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein another one of said generic commands gives another device a complete configuration based on information from a stored configuration file.

9.   (Cancelled).

10.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein said library is responsive to the receipt of a command for a given device to determine the module that corresponds to said given device and provide the received command to said module.

11.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein said modules convert responses received from the individual devices with which they are associated into a generic format for presentation to said library.

12.   (Currently amended) A method for configuring and managing a plurality of different types of network devices, comprising:

establishing a library of generic commands that can be applied to said network devices;

registering a plurality of plug-in modules with said library, each of said modules operating to convert at least some of said generic commands into device-specific commands;

receiving commands for a given device that is remote from said modules;

determining the module that corresponds to said given device and forwarding the received commands to said module; ~~and~~

transmitting said device-specific commands from said module to said given device;

~~wherein~~ one of said generic commands ~~gives~~ giving a device a complete configuration based on information from a stored configuration file; and

said module converting a response received from said given device into a generic format for presentation to said library.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said plug-in modules transmit each of said commands in accordance with a transmission protocol specific to the individual devices, respectively.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein one of said transmission protocols comprises Telnet.

15.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein another one of said generic commands establishes a connection to a network device through which configuration commands can be sent and information can be retrieved.

16.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein another one of said generic commands retrieves the current configuration of a network device by executing appropriate commands on the network device.

17.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein another one of said generic commands post-processes configuration information retrieved from another device to render said information suitable for storage and saves it to a local file system.

18.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein another one of said generic commands puts another device into a mode where it can accept configuration commands through an established connection at an enabled level.

19.   (Cancelled).

20.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein another one of said generic commands puts another device into its most privileged level through an established connection to the another device.

21.   (Cancelled).

22.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein said network devices are selected from the group consisting of switches, firewalls, routers and load balancers.

23.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein said network devices comprise devices selected from the group consisting of switches, firewalls, routers and load balancers.